

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of upgrading the warranty of a computer system including a plurality of components in a configuration, the method comprising:
 - receiving, by a warranty processor, a warranty upgrade request from the computer system, the warranty upgrade request including configuration information for the computer system; and
 - determining, by the warranty processor, a warranty upgrade price dependent on the configuration information in the warranty upgrade request.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the warranty upgrade request includes a unique identification number corresponding to the computer system.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the warranty upgrade request is user-initiated.
4. The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting, by the warranty processor, a warranty upgrade price to the computer system.
5. The method of claim 4 further comprising receiving payment, by the warranty processor, of the warranty upgrade price.
6. The method of claim 1 further comprising generating, by the warranty processor, a warranty authorization including a warranted configuration.
7. The method of claim 6 further comprising transmitting, by the warranty processor, the warranty authorization to the computer system.

PATENT

Docket No.: 16356.659 (DC-03234)

Customer No. 000027683

- 1 8. The method of claim 6 further comprising digitally signing, by the warranty
2 processor, the warranty authorization to provide a digitally signed warranty
3 authorization.
- 1 9. The method of claim 6 wherein the warranty authorization includes warranty
2 type information.
- 1 10. The method of claim 6 wherein the warranty authorization includes warranty
2 duration information.
- 1 11. The method of claim 6 wherein the warranty authorization includes a unique
2 identification number of the computer system.
- 1 12. The method of claim 7 further comprising the computer system receiving the
2 warranty authorization.
- 1 13. The method of claim 12 further comprising the computer system storing in
2 secure storage information contained in the warranty authorization.
- 1 14. The method of claim 8 further comprising the computer system authenticating
2 the digitally signed warranty authorization.
- 1 15. The method of claim 12 further comprising the computer system storing the
2 warranted configuration in secure storage if the warranted configuration
3 matches the actual configuration, and otherwise rejecting the warranty
4 authorization.

PATENT

Docket No.: 16356.659 (DC-03234)

Customer No. 000027683

1 16. The method of claim 6 further comprising the computer system comparing
2 the warranted configuration in the warranty authorization with the actual
3 configuration of the computer system, and storing the warranty authorization
4 in secure storage if the warranted configuration matches the actual
5 configuration, and otherwise rejecting the warranty authorization.

1 17. The method of claim 16 wherein a secure processor in the computer system
2 performs the comparing and storing step.

1 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the secure processor stores warranty type
2 information from the warranty authorization in the secure storage.

1 19. The method of claim 17 wherein the secure processor stores warranty
2 duration information from the warranty authorization in the secure storage.

1 20. The method of claim 17 wherein the secure processor stores the unique
2 identification number from the warranty authorization in the secure storage.

1 21. The method of claim 1 wherein the warranty upgrade price is determined
2 using the replacement cost of a component in the configuration as a factor.

1 22. The method of claim 1 wherein the warranty upgrade price is determined
2 using a remaining amount of warranty time for a component in the
3 configuration as a factor.

1 23. The method of claim 1 wherein the warranty upgrade price is determined
2 using age of a component in the configuration as a factor.

1 24. The method of claim 1 wherein the warranty upgrade price is determined
2 using reliability data of a component in the configuration as a factor.

1 25. A method of upgrading the warranty of a computer system including a
2 plurality of components in a configuration, the method comprising:
3 sending, by the computer system, of a warranty upgrade request to a
4 remote warranty processor, the warranty upgrade request including
5 configuration information for the computer system; and
6 receiving, by the computer system, of a warranty upgrade price
7 determined by the warranty processor dependent on the configuration
8 information in the warranty upgrade request.

1 26. The method of claim 25 further comprising the computer system sending
2 payment of the warranty upgrade price to the warranty processor.

1 27. The method of claim 25 further comprising receiving, by the computer
2 system, from the warranty server a warranty authorization including a
3 warranted configuration describing the configuration to be warranted.

1 28. The method of claim 25 further comprising receiving by the computer system
2 of a digitally signed warranty authorization from the warranty server, the
3 digitally signed warranty authorization including a warranted configuration
4 describing the configuration to be warranted.

1 29. The method of claim 27 wherein the warranty authorization includes warranty
2 type information.

1 30. The method of claim 27 wherein the warranty authorization includes warranty
2 duration information

PATENT

Docket No.: 16356.659 (DC-03234)

Customer No. 000027683

- 1 31. The method of claim 27 wherein the warranty authorization includes the
2 unique serial number of the computer system.
- 1 32. The method of claim 28 further comprising the computer system
2 authenticating the digitally signed warranty authorization.
- 1 33. The method of claim 27 further comprising the computer system comparing
2 the warranted configuration in the warranty authorization with the actual
3 configuration of the computer system, and storing the warranty authorization
4 in secure storage if the warranted configuration matches the actual
5 configuration, and otherwise rejecting the warranty authorization.
- 1 34. The method of claim 33 wherein a secure processor in the computer system
2 performs the comparing and storing step.
- 1 35. A method of upgrading the warranty of a configurable electrical device
2 including a plurality of components in a configuration, the method comprising:
3 receiving by a warranty processor of a warranty upgrade request from
4 the configurable electrical device, the warranty upgrade request including
5 configuration information for the configurable electrical device, and
6 determining by the warranty processor of a warranty upgrade price
7 dependent on the configuration information in the warranty upgrade request.

1 36. A method of upgrading the warranty of a configurable electrical device
2 including a plurality of components in a configuration, the method comprising:
3 sending by the configurable electrical device of a warranty upgrade
4 request to a remote warranty processor, the warranty upgrade request
5 including configuration information for the configurable electrical device; and
6 receiving by the configurable electrical device of a warranty upgrade
7 price determined by the warranty processor dependent on the configuration
8 information in the warranty upgrade request.

1 37. A warranty processing system comprising:
2 a processor, for receiving a warranty upgrade request from a remote
3 configurable electrical device, the warranty upgrade request including
4 configuration information for the remote configurable electrical device; and
5 a database, coupled to the processor, for storing warranty cost
6 information for components included in the configuration information, the
7 database providing the warranty cost information to the processor to enable
8 the processor to determine a warranty upgrade price dependent on the
9 configuration information in the warranty upgrade request.

1 38. A warranty processing system comprising:
2 a processor, for receiving a warranty upgrade request from a remote
3 computer system, the warranty upgrade request including configuration
4 information for the remote computer system; and
5 a database, coupled to the processor, for storing warranty cost
6 information for components included in the configuration information, the
7 database providing the warranty cost information to the processor to enable
8 the processor to determine a warranty upgrade price dependent on the
9 configuration information in the warranty upgrade request.

1 39. An electrical device comprising:

2 a configurable electrical portion;

3 a secure processor, coupled to the configurable electrical portion, for
4 sending a warranty request including configuration information for the
5 configurable electrical portion, and for receiving a warranty authorization
6 including a warranted configuration; and

7 a storage device, coupled to the secure processor, for storing the
8 warranty authorization.

1 40. A computer system comprising:

2 a secure processor for sending a warranty request including
3 configuration information for the system, and for receiving a warranty
4 authorization including a warranted configuration; and

5 a storage device coupled to the secure processor for storing the
6 warranty authorization.

1 41. A method of registering the warranty of a computer system including a
2 plurality of components in a configuration, the method comprising:

3 monitoring, by the computer system, for a use of the computer system
4 prior to warranty registration;

5 sending, by the computer system, of a warranty registration request to
6 a remote warranty processor when a use of the computer system prior to
7 warranty registration is detected, the warranty registration request including
8 configuration information for the computer system; and

9 receiving, by the computer system, of a warranty authorization from
10 the warranty processor, the warranty authorization including a warranted
11 configuration describing the configuration to be warranted.

1 42. The method of claim 41 wherein the warranty authorization is digitally signed.

PATENT

Docket No.: 16356.659 (DC-03234)

Customer No. 000027683

1 43. The method of claim 41 wherein the warranty authorization includes warranty
2 type information.

1 44. The method of claim 41 wherein the warranty authorization includes warranty
2 duration information

1 45. The method of claim 42 wherein the digitally signed warranty authorization
2 includes a unique identification number of the computer system.

1 46. The method of claim 42 further comprising the computer system
2 authenticating the digitally signed warranty authorization to provide an
3 authenticated warranty authorization.

1 47. The method of claim 41 further comprising the computer system comparing
2 the warranted configuration in the warranty authorization with the actual
3 configuration of the computer system, and storing the warranty authorization
4 in secure storage if the warranted configuration matches the actual
5 configuration, and otherwise rejecting the warranty authorization.

1 48. The method of claim 47 wherein a secure processor in the computer system
2 performs the comparing and storing step.

- 1 49. A method of registering the warranty of a computer system including a
2 plurality of components in a configuration, the method comprising:
3 receiving, by a warranty processor, of a warranty registration request
4 from the computer system, the warranty registration request including
5 configuration information for the computer system, the warranty registration
6 request being generated by the computer system when the computer system
7 determines that a warranty has not yet been registered for the computer
8 system; and
9 sending, by the warranty processor, of a warranty authorization to the
10 computer system, the warranty authorization including a warranted
11 configuration describing the configuration to be warranted.
- 1 50. The method of claim 49 further comprising digitally signing, by the warranty
2 processor, of the warranty authorization to provide a digitally signed warranty
3 authorization.
- 1 51. The method of claim 50 wherein the warranty upgrade request includes a
2 unique identification number corresponding to the computer system.
- 1 52. The method of claim 50 wherein the warranty authorization includes warranty
2 type information.
- 1 53. The method of claim 50 wherein the warranty authorization includes warranty
2 duration information.
- 1 54. The method of claim 50 wherein the warranty authorization includes a unique
2 identification number of the computer system.

1 55. A method of registering the warranty of a configurable electrical device
2 including a plurality of components in a configuration, the method comprising
3 the steps of:

4 monitoring, by the configurable electrical device for a use of the
5 configurable electrical device prior to warranty registration;

6 sending by the configurable electrical device of a warranty registration
7 request to a remote warranty processor when a use of the configurable
8 electrical device prior to warranty registration is detected, the warranty
9 registration request including configuration information for the configurable
10 electrical device; and

11 receiving by the configurable electrical device of a warranty
12 authorization from the warranty processor, the warranty authorization
13 including a warranted configuration describing the configuration to be
14 warranted.

1 56. The method of claim 55 further comprising storing, by the configurable
2 electrical device, of the warranty authorization in secure storage.

1 57. A method of registering the warranty of a configurable electrical device
2 including a plurality of components in a configuration, the method comprising
3 the steps of:

4 receiving, by a warranty processor, of a warranty registration request
5 from the configurable electrical device, the warranty upgrade request
6 including configuration information for the configurable electrical device and
7 being generated in response to a determination by the configurable
8 electrical device that its warranty has not yet been registered; and

9 sending, by the warranty processor, of a warranty authorization to the
10 configurable electrical device, the warranty authorization including a
11 warranted configuration describing the configuration to be warranted.